



National Audit Office

# A review of collaborative procurement across the public sector

Official Journal of the European  
Union (OJEU) contract notice analysis

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The number of Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) contract notices posted in the United Kingdom has been rising over the last four years (11,961 in 2005; 11,996 in 2006; 12,276 in 2007; 12,662 in 2008). We reviewed, in conjunction with the Office of Government Commerce (OGC), a sample of 300 OJEU notices issued by public sector bodies. Our sample size of 300 provides a level of precision of +/- 5 per cent at a 90 per cent confidence level.

After an initial sift to identify the OJEU notices which covered goods or services in one of the eight collaborative categories included in the OGC's Collaborative Procurement Programme<sup>1</sup>, an assessment was made as to whether an existing 'compliant' framework agreement<sup>2</sup> could have been used rather than undertaking an independent OJEU exercise. **Figure 1** shows the results.

The total of 61 OJEU notices which could possibly have been covered by an existing compliant framework agreement equates to 20 per cent of our sample of 300 notices. This was a high level review of the OJEU notices and it may be that with a detailed analysis, specific reasons why an existing framework agreement could not have been used would be evident.

Applying this 20 per cent figure to the 12,662 notices issued in the United Kingdom in 2008, we estimate that more than 2,500 public sector OJEU tendering exercises could have been avoided.

**Figure 1**  
Analysis of 300 OJEU notices issued by the public sector in 2008

<b>OGC's eight collaborative categories</b>	<b>Number of OJEU notices covered by the category</b>	<b>Number of OJEU notices which could have been covered by an existing 'compliant' framework agreement</b>
Professional services	38	28
Construction	34	13
Information and Communications Technology	10	2
Travel	10	4
Energy	7	6
Food	7	0
Fleet	6	4
Office Solutions	6	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>61</b>

1 Facilities management notices were not included as this category was added to the OGC Programme after the analysis was completed.

2 As determined by the Category Boards in the OGC's Collaborative Procurement Programme.